

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 01501 091715Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01

BIB-01 /062 W

----- 058827

R 091550Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6277

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1501

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ELECTIONS: PCP COURTS SOCIALISTS

REF: LISBON 1443 (DTG 051726Z MAR 76)

SUMMARY: AS ELECTIONS DRAW NEAR, PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR WOOING OF SOCIALISTS, WHO REMAIN UNRESPONSIVE. MAOIST FAR LEFT PARTIES, MEANWHILE, HAVE COMPLICATED PCP ELECTION STRATEGY. END SUMMARY.

1. PCP WOOS SOCIALISTS: AS APRIL 25 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS DRAW NEAR, PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS STEPPED UP ITS CAMPAIGN TO EFFECT RAPPROCHMENT WITH SOCIALISTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 01501 091715Z

-- DURING FEB 5 RALLY IN LISOB'S CAMPO PEQUENO BULL RING,

PCP SECGEN ALVARO CUNHAL WARNED THAT VICTORY OF CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL PARTIES IN ELECTIONS WOULD LEAD TO RETURN OF FASCIST DICTATORSHIP. ELECTION WOULD PRODUCE, HE SAID, EITHER GOVERNMENT OF RIGHT "WITH OR WITHOUT THE PS," OR A GOVERNMENT OF LEFT WITH THE PCP. HE STRESSED NEED FOR LEFTIST UNITY IN ELECTIONS. PREVIOUS ADDRESS BY COMMUNIST YOUTH (UJC) PRESIDENT POINTEDLY ALLUDED TO EXPANDING CONTACTS BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST YOUTH GROUPS.

-- IN FEB 6 SPEECH TO NATIONAL UJC MEETING, CUNHAL AGAIN KEYNOTED NEED FOR LEFTIST UNITY AND PS-PCP ALLIANCE. STRESSING DANGER FROM RIGHT, CUNHAL PLEDGED PCP WILLINGNESS TO DO "WHATEVER NECESSARY" TO PROMOTE A RECONCILIATION WITH PS. HE CLAIMED THAT INCREASING EVIDENCE OF PSP-PS COLLABORATION AT GRASS ROOTS LEVEL PROVED RECONCILIATION WAS POSSIBLE.

2. MIXED TREATMENT FOR PS LEADERSHIP: WHILE CLAIMING PROGRESS TOWARD "UNITED FRONT FROM BELOW," COMMUNISTS ADOPTED HIGH ROAD - LOW ROAD APPROACH TO PS LEADERSHIP. CUNHAL NOTABLY TONED DOWN HIS ATTACKS, GENTLY CHIDING THE SOCIALISTS IN HIS CAMPO PEQUENO SPEECH AND LIMITING HIMSELF TO VAGUE CRITICISM OF PS LEADERS' ANTI-COMMUNIST REMARKS AT UJC RALLY. FEB 6 STATEMENTS BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLOS BRITO, HOWEVER, TOOK A STRONGER TONE. APPARENTLY MIFFED THAT THE PS HAD BEEN WOODED BUT NOT WON, BRITO SLAMMED SOCIALIST LEADERS' "COMPLICITY" WITH REACTIONARY PARTIES AND AFFIRMED TIME HAD COME FOR PS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT.

3. PS UNRESPONSIVE: PS LEADERSHIP CONTINUED TO IGNORE COMMUNIST SIREN SONG. IN FEB 5 MEETING WITH PRESS, WHERE HE RELEASED RESULTS OF POLL FAVORABLE TO PS, SOCIALIST CHIEF SOARES REITERATED THAT HIS PARTY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION ALLIANCES (REFTEL).

4. FAR LEFT: COMMUNISTS, MEANWHILE, FOUND THEIR ELECTORAL PLANS COMPLICATED BY ACTIONS OF ANTAGONISTIC FAR LEFT PARTIES. IN APPARENT BID TO CONFUSE ELECTORATE AND CUT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 01501 091715Z

INTO PCP VOTE, MAOIST PCP-ML ANNOUNCED IT WOULD COMPETE IN EVERY DISTRICT IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS. REORGANIZING MOVEMENT OF PROLETARIAT PARTY (MRPP) -- ALSO MAOIST IN ORIENTATION -- ANNOUNCED IT WOULD LEGALLY CHALLENGE PCP RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE IN NOV 25 ABORTIVE COUP.

4. SERRA ASSERTS NON-RECOGNITION: PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE

MEMBER JAIME SERRA ASSERTED MARCH 6 THAT PCP WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE RESULTS OF ELECTIONS WHICH, HE ALLEGED, WERE BEING CONDUCTED UNDER CONDITIONS UNFAVORABLE TO PCP. COMMUNISTS HAVE IN PAST CHARGED THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO WAGE PROPER ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN AREAS OF "LOCAL REACTIONARY CONTROL" SUCH AS NORTH OR AZORES.

5. COMMENTC PS LEADERSHIP HAS MADE IT MORE THAN CLEAR IT WILL NOT BE FORCED OR DRAWN INTO ELECTION ALLIANCE WITH COMMUNISTS. CURRENT PCP RUSH TO COURT SOCIALISTS HAS TWO POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES. ON THE ONE HAND, TO THE DEGREE IT IS ABLE TO PROMOTE A "UNITED FRONT FROM BELOW," THE PCP HOPES TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PS LEADERSHIP TO TAP ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENT DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. ON THE OTHER, AND ESPECIALLY IF PCP CAN MAKE A RESPECTABLE SHOWING IN ELECTIONS, TACTIC WOULD LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR POST ELECTION COOPERATION WITH SOCIALISTS. SERRA COMMENTS, HOWEVER, MAY INDICATE PCP HAS REASON FOR CONCERN -- POSSIBLE A RUMORED UNFAVORABLE PCP POLL -- OVER ITS ELECTION CHANCES.

6. PCP IS TAKING HARASSING TACTICS OF LAOIST PARTIES SERIOUSLY. THROUGH COMMUNIST-LINING LISBON DAILY "DIARIO" IT HAS WARNED OF DANGER OF DIVIDING PROGRESSIVE VOTE AMONG A PLENTITUDE OF LEFTIST GROUPS. IN RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS PCP LEADERS SUCH AS CUNHAL AND SECRETARIAT MEMBER OCTAVIO PATO HAVE STRONGLY CRITICIZED "PROVACATEUR ORGANIZATIONS" SUCH AS PCP-ML AND MRPP, WHICH, BY DRAWING OFF LEFTIST VOTES, SERVED THE CAUSE OF REACTION. CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON01501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760089-0688
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760381/aaaactab.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LISBON 1443
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS: PCP COURTS SOCIALISTS
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006